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AH moves to four-day work week

Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

by SUE TIFFIN Editor

After the upcoming Canada Day long weekend, Algonquin Highlands township staff will begin trialling a compressed work week, making long weekends a weekly option.

Algonquin Highlands council supported the eight-month trial, which is planned to begin July 4 until Feb. 28, 2023, at their June 16 council meeting, many councillors and the CAO expressing their excitement for the policy.

"As we know, the landscape for providing services to the public is changing, we know that ... recruitment and retention of qualified staff is challenging," said Angie Bird, CAO. "What we also know is that, as a result of the pandemic, there are many other municipalities that have trialled these compressed work weeks, policies in various forms of course, and they've proven to be very, very successful, and at no cost to the township.'

A compressed work week means employees will work longer hours in a day in exchange for a reduction in the number of working days.

Staff working in the township office in administration, finance, fire, building/bylaw, environmental and planning departments currently work 35 hours per week, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., from Monday to Friday with an unpaid one-hour lunch break. In the

see COMPRESSED page 5



Beauty and the Beast

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's senior drama class's Ethan Chartrand, from left, Ella Stamp, Grace Judge, Molly Devolin, Zita Suranyi, Ciera Wilson, Oceane Harris, Sophie Longo, Brooklyn Sidsworth, Crystal Petry sing as town's people about Grace Hudson's character Belle during the staging of the musical, Beauty and the Beast at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Tuesday, June 14 in Haliburton. The performance included four dates from June 13 to 16 all at 7 p.m. See more photos on page 10. /DARREN LUM Staff

Two deaths reported in health unit's COVID-19 update

by SUE TIFFIN

Editor

Two Haliburton County residents have died of COVID-19 in the past two weeks. In a June 15 update of COVID-19 activity in the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge dis- HKPR District health unit will provide about trict health unit region, a death in Highlands East and one death in Minden Hills was reported.

One of the two deaths involved a person in their 70s, the other a person older than 80.

"Typically, these are all the details the

individuals who have died of COVID-19," said Bill Eekhof, communication officer with the HKPR district health unit. To date, two of the local COVID-19 deaths have been Dysart et al residents, two fatalities were from

see FIVE page 3

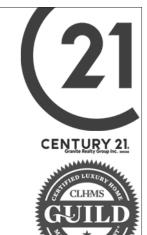


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Minden Hills Fire Department firefighters organize after managing the third fire related to trees on power lines in the Minden Hills area on June 17, before heading to the fourth fire reported that afternoon. Strong winds throughout the province left 21,000 local customers without power, including many of Minden's businesses along Hwy 35 and downtown. A special weather statement from **Environment Canada** alerted of strong winds with gusts up to 70 km/h. /SUE TIFFIN Staff





While organizing after managing the third fire related to trees on power lines in the Minden Hills area on June 17, Minden Hills deputy fire chief Shain Duda hears over the radio of the fourth fire that afternoon

High winds keep emergency crews busy

This past weekend was a busy one for emergency crews. Hydro One crews responded to power outages caused by high winds that caused trees and tree branches to come down on power lines. The hydro crews worked to restore power to more than 238,000 customers across the province, including approximately 21,000 customers in Minden and surrounding

"We understand how difficult it is to be without power and thank our customers for their patience as crews restored power," said Alicia Sayers, Hydro One spokesperson.

The Minden Hills Fire Department ran a total of 12 calls in just over 24 hours between Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon: six trees on hydro lines, two motor vehicle collisions, two residential fire alarms, two other fire calls.

"We had six firefighters, two captains and the deputy fire chief on these scenes, who all did an amazing job extinguishing the fires that were caused by trees falling onto the hydro lines, and preventing fire spread to residential properties and surrounding wildland areas," said deputy chief Shain Duda. "We had three crews working at multiple emergency scenes and were able to control the emergencies and deal with all the concerns from the public."

Duda thanked the residents served, Hydro One staff and OPP for their help in responding to the emergencies.

"Being able to work as a team allows us to perform our firefighting duties more efficiently, making Minden Hills a safer community," he said.

- If you see a power line or hydro pole down: stay away and stay safe, keep a distance of at least 10 metres from downed power lines.
- If you are in your vehicle when lines come down: stay in your vehicle, call 911 for assistance.
- Never touch fallen wires: no matter how they look, power lines are not insulated like power cords and can be very dangerous.
- If you are unsure about any lines down or damaged, call Ontario Hydro or 911 for assistance.

- Staff

Single car collision results in no injuries



No injuries were reported after a single car collision involving one person/driver on Hwy 35 near Halls Lake on the morning of June 16. Emergency responders including Algonquin Highlands fire department and Haliburton Highlands OPP attended, and

traffic was able to get through with one lane open.

- Staff



Lauren Phillips, market manager, laughs as the wind picks up again on opening day in Stanhope. Vendors at the market offer grassfed beef and burgers, local beer and wine, fresh fruit and vegetables, vegan fare, pies and herbs with more to come.





Ron Lofthouse of Lofthouse Beeswax offers candles (and other products) to light up the lives of marketgoers.

Friday Farmers' Market opens

The Stanhope Farmers' Market, the third in the Haliburton County Farmers' Market events to open, braved strong winds on June 17 and set up shop at the Stanhope fire hall and community centre at 1095 North Shore Rd from 12 noon to 4 p.m. It will be welcoming visitors on Fridays until Sept. 2. For more information visit: https://www. hcfma.ca. /SUE TIFFIN Staff



Fisher Farm offers fresh greens, including potted herbs.

Five local COVID-19-related deaths reported since 2020

from page 1

Highlands East and one COVID-19-related death involved a person from Minden Hills.

In total, there have been five COVID-19-related deaths in Haliburton since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020, all involving residents over the age of 70.

Four deaths have occurred in 2022, since the Omicron variant wave, and the first occurred in 2021.

On April 13, it was reported a resident in their 70s died, and on May 9, the health unit reported the death of a resident 80 or older.

The health unit has moved to reporting COVID-19 information on a weekly basis, as has the province.

"This is due to decreased COVID-19 activity in the region, and less of a need to report as often," said Eekhof. "However, if COVID-19 activity starts to increase again, the health unit will increase its frequency of reporting as well."

The health unit notes that data regarding COVID-19 lab confirmed cases is not accurate, as PCR testing is still greatly limited, only being available to those who live or work in high-risk settings. More information regarding COVID-19 database information is available at hkpr.on.ca. The database is updated each Wednesday with information from the week prior.

The following are brief reports of items discussed at the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit board of health meeting held in-person and broadcast on YouTube

COVID-19 activity reducing throughout region: MOH

Dr. Natalie Bocking, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit medical officer of health said many of the indicators are normalizing, which she said doesn't mean they will necessarily reduce to zero.

As of June 15, the average daily new cases (lab-confirmed, past seven days) is 3.7, and as of June 15, there are two active outbreaks. Two hospital admissions have occurred in the past 14 days, and the test positivity seven-day average as of May 10 is 6.1 per cent, the lowest seen prior to Omicron. Wastewater surveillance shows a low viral signal trend in both Cobourg and Lindsay, with Bocking noting she hopes "we'll stay at this level, at least for a couple of months."

Since Jan. 1, considered to be the start of Omicron-related wave reporting, there have been 142 hospital admissions,

29 ICU admissions, 78 outbreaks and 47 deaths related to COVID-19.

"Certainly I don't think we can minimize or underestimate what the impact has been on morbidity and mortality since January," said Bocking. "It's easy with sunny weather and low COVID activity to forget what the impact truly has been.'

Bocking said people should stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination, stay home if sick, wear a mask in indoor crowded spaces and that those who are high-risk should consider wearing a mask for indoor spaces where unable to keep more than two metres from those outside of their household.

These same recommendations, she said, work for influenza, which hasn't been prevalent in the region since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

School immunization program catches up

The HKPRD health unit was one of a handful of health units that, in Fall 2021, administered vaccines at school to students who were eligible and had parental consent for the Hepatitis B, Human papillomavirus infection (HPV) and meningitis vaccine.

The health unit's immunization team visited 44 schools over 28 clinic days, seeing both Grade 7 and Grade 8 students rather than the typical Grade 7 visit, resulting in 5,352 immunizations compared to a typical year of 3,600 immunizations administered.

As health care providers and health unit resources were directed toward COVID-19 prevention and treatment efforts, many students now in high school - around 7,000 - missed those immunizations. The Ministry of Health, however, has announced an expansion program to give students more time to be fully vaccinated in a catch-up program.

Emerging issues: Monkeypox

As of June 13, 21 cases of monkeypox have been confirmed in Ontario, while over the past month unprecedented human-to-human transmission has been identified - almost 2,000 cases in 35 countries that have not experienced monkeypox endemic before.

"We have never seen what's happening now, globally," said Bocking.

"I think there's often a sentiment, well, COVID's done, the pandemic's done, we can get back to normal life," said Bocking. "In public health there is always a risk of emerging, re-emerging different infectious diseases, and I think this most recent activity related to monkeypox has highlighted that, and also highlighted how global travel patterns are going to continue to impact even small health units like HKPR."

The most commonly reported symptoms include rash, oral/ genital lesions, swollen lymph nodes, headache, fever, chills and myalgia (muscle aches and pain).

Bocking noted there are numerous reasons why new or reemerging viruses will likely continue to be seen, including climate change adaptation, and how the geographic pattern of how viruses and bacteria are transmitted by animals changes.

The name monkeypox might be changed going forward due to the stigma and discrimination associated with the name. In the days to come, the World Health Organization is meeting to determine whether to call the situation a public health emergency of international concern.

The local health unit is prepared to respond should a case of monkeypox be confirmed locally, and vaccine is available for either pre-exposure or post-exposure prophylaxis.

Beach water testing program starts

As of last week, the health unit has launched its beach water testing program. A total of 46 public beaches throughout the region will be regularly sampled for E.coli through to the Labour Day long weekend.

Test results showing green (open), yellow (swimming not recommended) and red (closed) for each beach will be updated weekly by late Thursday or early Friday on the health unit's beach water testing site, and signs are posted at local beaches indicating if conditions are right for swimming or

E. coli and high bacteria counts in the water can increase the risk of getting eye, ear, nose or throat infections, or make people sick leading to stomach cramps and diarrhea. A skin rash called swimmer's itch can also surface, causing itching and redness.

"There are a number of ways that beaches can become contaminated with bacteria," reads a press release issued June 16. "Storm water runoff, combined with sewer overflows, sewage treatment plant bypasses, agricultural runoff, faulty septic systems, and large populations of waterfowl like geese all contribute to water pollution. This in turn can lead to beaches being posted as unsafe for swimming. High levels of bacteria can persist for up to 48 hours after a heavy rainfall, and bacterial counts can also be affected by high winds or wave

Visit www.hkpr.on.ca/my-community/beach-water/ for more information.

www.mindenhills.ca

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(VIRTUAL) COUNCIL MEETINGS

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Members of the Public will participate electronically, until further notice. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The schedule of upcoming meetings are:

> June 30 - Regular Council Meeting July 28 - Regular Council Meeting

Please note Council Meetings are reduced to one (1) meeting a month in July.

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by ioining a live-stream link available on the township website at www. mindenhills.ca/council/ or by using the direct link provided in the notice. Meeting agendas are not displayed during the meeting, please download by visiting our website at www.mindenhills.ca/council/. Please note the live stream file/video will be available to the public for the duration of one week after the Council Meeting.

TENDER OPPORTUNITIES

Keep informed of current projects available to bid on by visiting our website at https://mindenhills.ca/tenders/ for a list of available tender opportunities.

CANADA DAY CELEBRATION

Oh Canada! The Township of Minden Hills' annual Canada Day Celebration is back for 2022! Some of the highlights include: A birds of prey show, interactive stations for all ages, the fishing derby and of course fireworks at dusk! Fishing starts at 8:00 am with a final weigh in at 11:00 am. Events start at 10:00 am. Follow us on Facebook for more information!

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

The 2022 Final Residential and Commercial/Industrial tax bills will be mailed on June 24, 2022. If you have not received your bill(s) prior to the July due date, please contact our office. The Final tax bill will be payable in two installments; July 22nd, 2022 and September 23rd, 2022.

Final tax bills will not reflect payments received after June 14th or penalty or interest for July. Property owners are responsible to provide to the Municipal Office written notification of any address change. Failure to receive your tax bill does not exempt penalty charges from being applied to a tax account. Please contact our office for a current balance or any questions.

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENTS

Friday, June 24th 9AM to 3PM and Saturday, June 25th 7:30AM to 11:30AM, bring your hazardous waste items to the Minden Community Centre (55 Parkside Street). Paints, aerosols, batteries, cleaners, fluorescent bulbs and more will be accepted. Please visit mindenhills.ca/landfill for a full list of items.



Minden Hills@twpmindenhills



Township.Minden.Hills

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following positions within the Township:

Building Inspector/Municipal Law Enforcement Officer Deputy Treasurer Community Services Casual Operator Summer Students at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Please email sprentice@mindenhills.ca or visit www.mindenhills.ca/ employment-opportunities/ for more information.

RECREATION PROGRAMS

New! Township of Minden Hills will be offering two programs this summer for 18+. Badminton - Monday from July 4-August 29 and Basketball - Tuesday July 5-August 30. Both programs run from 7-9 pm and cost \$40 each. All players must pre-register before June 29 at 4pm. Email kmcalpine@ mindenhills.ca to register.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE

Volunteer Fire Departments Use Green Flashing Lights When Responding to the Fire Hall







Please yield the right of way. We could be going to your house.

School board hopes to build outdoor education centre

by SUE TIFFIN

Editor

The following are brief reports of items discussed at the June 14 meeting of the Trillium Lakelands District School Board, held in-person and broadcast via the board's website.

On June 11, a post made to the Facebook page of Yearley Outdoor Education Centre protests the closure of the long-time outdoor centre in Huntsville by the school board.

Trustee Louise Clodd asked for clarification about overnight camp, and what the plan and short-term solution would be if the board is moving away from using Yearly. She said she had received numerous phone calls and emails about it.

"Yes, there will be outdoor education, there was never not going to be outdoor education," said TLDSB director Wes Hahn. "We were going to make sure it happens."

Hahn said a review of the current outdoor site had led to some concerns.

"We have some health and safety concerns, we have some concerns with the grounds and frankly now that we know some of the tree cutting has been done, we have even other situations occurring there that would not allow us to get back in," he said. "On top of that, two years of not being in use, we have some things we're concerned about. Let's be honest, let's be really straight here, we're looking at the safety of staff and students when they are there. And that's what we want to make sure is primarily our main focus."

Hahn said the school board does not own the property, and said it's unfortunate that "there's some misinformation out there about this, because we've heard comments that we're going to sell the property, that we're going to do some other things with it, but we are not - we don't own it, we lease it. And so there's not much we can do with the actual physical building or the pieces with it but we are going to make sure that in our review next year, that that is part of the process. Yearly will be part of our review, along with other sites."

Hahn said the board wants the best outdoor education site for students.

"I think we all agree that those kind of experiences ... are outstanding. Our school's sites alone are mini-outdoor education sites. And so we know that teachers and our support staff are doing that within our own schools. It's not going away, we are in support of it. As a matter of fact we believe long-term, we're hoping, we're hoping, we can build an outdoor education centre ourselves. We're looking at all these possibilities, they were always there. It's unfortunate maybe some of that information wasn't clear."

CUPE 997 president Bill Campbell said the school board had issued two layoff notices for the outdoor education technicians that work there.

"TLDSB values all of our employees," said Sinead Fegan, TLDSB spokesperson. "Unfortunately, for the 2022-2023 school year, the Education Worker Protection Fund (EWPF) funding that was available in previous years to hire additional staff positions has expired, resulting in layoff notices being issued to some individuals. As we continue our ongoing staffing processes throughout the school year, we will work to



offer those individuals opportunities to work full-time hours, and, where possible, return them to permanent status. TLDSB will continue to ensure we have the best possible supports and resources in place to advance student achievement and well-being for all TLDSB students."

The Facebook post compared the loss of the Yearly Outdoor Education Centre, in use for some 40 years, to the closure of the Frost Centre in Dorset.

Long-term accommodation plan

An updated long-term accommodation plan, a document used to guide capital investment, programming and facility decisions, was presented to the board by superintendent of business Tim Ellis. The plan will be updated and presented to board trustees annually, and will be available at tldsb.ca for the public's access.

Director reports on challenging year

Director Wes Hahn told the board he's visited almost all of the schools in the board's region this year, and acknowledged, "this year especially was incredibly challenging." He said the "constant change" of staff and students to pivot between athome and in-person learning was "incredibly difficult."

"We have a learning focus in our system even in the most complex periods of that time, at the forefront," he said. "It wasn't the same, and you've heard me talk about that before, but we still made it a priority. We did not want to come out of the COVID situation and be starting over. That wasn't easy. When we looked at the complexities, to keep that moving, we do appreciate it."

Hahn said he appreciated the work of staff and parents and guardians to manage during the pandemic.

"I'll be glad at some point in time not to have to do a COVID update, I have to tell you," he said. "I know people are tired of it, and we have moved on, and we are going to continue but it hasn't left us yet. We're still monitoring that."

Hahn said he had recently heard a researcher at a confer-

president William Campbell made a delegation to the Trillium Lakelands District School Board board about staff cuts. "We're bringing our pink slips to the school board meeting today, so TLDSB trustees have to see the human faces of their cuts," said Bill Campbell, president of CUPE 997 in a statement. "Not only should there be a moratorium on any more damaging cuts that hurt students, it's time for a budget that funds more staff to support students, more staff to properly clean schools, and more staff to keep everyone

safe." / Photo submitted

CUPE local 997 held a rally

outside the Muskoka Education Centre in Bracebridge on June 14, before CUPE 997

ence speak to the effect of COVID-19 on the population.

The researcher said that 18-to-34-year-olds have greater mental health concerns and feelings of less optimism than some other age groups.

"What the researcher had indicated to us is that age group was one of the highest optimism groups prior to the pandemic, so it has shifted and we know that, it's not new to us," said Hahn. "But it is something we're going to have to work on and focus on here in our system and we are."

He said TLDSB has "opportunities we've put in place from a support staff point of view and teaching point of view to make sure we can deal with these types of situations."

The board is adding a School Support Team – five itinerant teachers for inclusive education and four itinerant educational assistants, new positions at TLDSB, with the goal of the team to "support and model instructional practices to improve student achievement and well-being," according to TLDSB communications. Two additional teaching and learning coaches have been added to the school system for the 2022 – 2023 year, to work side-by-side with and support educators.

Hahn said the board is currently analyzing the results of the recent school climate survey, which he said details positive points about how students and parents are feeling as well as issues and concerns around anxiety and belonging.

Later in the meeting, trustee John Byrne said he had recently attended an assembly at Fenelon Falls Secondary School.

"They are so over COVID, and they're very resilient people there," he said. "It was nice to shake hands, not seeing many people with masks on - some still which is fine - but I'm not sure how well that study really shows the resilience of some of our students."

Next board meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Aug. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Muskoka Education Centre in Bracebridge. It is broadcast live online at tldsb.ca and meetings are also available soon after the live broadcast for viewing.



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Bird banners fly on main street

Banners featuring bird photography are now on display on Minden's Bobcaygeon Road. Almost 30 people submitted entries to the township's bird-themed banner contest this year, with about two dozen banners being created from the entries. The banners will be on display until Thanksgiving weekend. /SUE TIFFIN Staff

Compressed work week trial begins next month

compressed work week arrangement, those staff that choose to participate will work 8.75 hours per day, from 8 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. from either Monday to Thursday, or Tuesday to Friday with a lunch break reduced to 30 minutes.

Township office hours will be amended to reflect this change, being open instead from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., equating to an additional five hours of service per week for residents.

Those township employees who currently work 40 hours per week will work 10 hours per day from Monday to

A two-team approach has been organized to "ensure seamless and consistent customer service delivery for all municipal stakeholders," according to Bird's report to council.

Team A will work from Monday to Thursday while Team B will work from Tuesday to Friday, with adjustments to take place as necessary.

"This particular policy provides five additional hours to the public," said Bird. "It's proposed to improve workplace morale, we are going to be giving staff an additional day off. It will provide an innovative recruitment and retention opportunity. When recruiting we can say, you [work] four days and you have three days off, which is great. And then, there's the environmental aspect of it. There's one reduced day of driving to work. So those are the positives for it, for sure."

Bird said department heads have considered business continuity and coverage, and have discussed the policy with staff, and that "everyone's really excited about it. There's a lot of support for it, we've discussed it at length."

Not all staff will be able to opt in to the policy - for example, the parks, recreation and trails department, which operates on a seven day per week schedule, but Bird asked that the policy be expanded into other departments where and when possible.

"It's a bold and progressive move in terms of service provision, and operations, and being a desirable employer," said Mayor Carol Moffatt during the meeting. "We've learned

through COVID – COVID allowed us to do things that we might not have tried before."

Deputy Mayor Liz Danielsen agreed, asking about the decision to run the trial for eight months as opposed to six months.

Bird responded the decision was made as a result of the upcoming October election, which could result in a new council in Algonquin Highlands.

"This is a big policy for consideration so if there's any changes recommended or permanent recommendation for implementation then I want a new council to be able to have feedback," she said.

Councillor Lisa Barry asked if the trial is mandatory, noting not all employees will be able to take part in it, and Bird said it is voluntary.

Moffatt said the trial allows for modification and assessment as needed.

"Angie could come back in eight months and say, it just ended up being a dog's breakfast and we couldn't make it work, or, it could be, goodness, this is the way to go permanently," she said. "It is exciting, and if I were a staff person I'd be excited too."

Danielsen said she appreciated the way cross-coverage had been worked out, to ensure the appropriate person is available at the right time.

"I can't see the public having any issue with it because you're available, the office is open and available to the public at all times and even better than before - certainly better than during COVID," she said.

Moffatt noted the public had become "extremely comfortable" with making appointments during the pandemic, and that if there is frustration about that moving forward, it can be built into the assessment.

Bird agreed appointment-making had been successful, and that there's still walk-in traffic but generally if people need to see someone, they call ahead.

Moffatt asked how the trial would be deemed successful,

"I really do think the criteria has to be input from the pub-



It's a bold and progressive move in terms of service provision, and operations, and being a desirable employer

- MAYOR CAROL MOFFATT

lic," said Bird. "If we don't have any complaints or questions about staff not being here, or not being able to reach them, and also the input from staff - do they like the long days? Some people may not, they are longer days. We'll establish more criteria than that, but the idea is to evaluate what the public thinks and what we as staff think.'

"The public feedback needs to be around service provision, not just, 'I don't like it," said Moffatt. "It has to be quantifiable."

A four-day work week has been implemented in other municipalities in Ontario, including the township of Springwater and the township of Zorra. Additionally, the County of Haliburton has implemented a version of a compressed workweek, which allows for staff to work a four-day work week every other week, when possible, which has been in effect since Aug. 2021.









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All in a day's work

SUE TIFFIN

Editor

HE TIMES, they are a-changin'. Work times, that is. In Algonquin Highlands last week, council approved a compressed work week trial policy that will see many of its employees working four days rather than five each week, beginning next month.

For many of us, a five-day work week from 9 to 5 (or nowadays, from 9 to whenever you finally put down the minicomputer that goes everywhere with you) has always been the norm. But the labour laws we have in place are a social construct so things can change, even if they've always been the same.

It's not unheard of throughout the world to make a shift to a different working model, even pre-pandemic when pre-existing norms were abruptly halted and we learned that we can – and in many

cases, want to or need to work differently than we have been.

In Iceland, large-scale trials involving about 2,500 public sector employees - or 1 per cent of the country's working population - on reduced working week of about 35 hours with no reduction in pay took place from 2015 to 2019. The trials were so successful, that now about

86 per cent of the country's workforce are also working shorter hours or now have the right to work shorter hours. While productivity throughout the trial remained the same or improved, studies show, "worker wellbeing dramatically increased across a range of indicators, from perceived stress and burnout, to health and work-life balance."

In Iceland, they're actually working less, a true four day work week - in Algonquin Highlands, staff will be working the same number of hours in a compressed work week, with teams of staff organized to take either Friday or Monday off so that services remain always available. While it will mean working longer with a shorter lunch break on four days of the week, the benefit of that is a long weekend every weekend, for those who work for that township. (The county put in place a model last August to enable employees to work a

shortened week every other week.)

Those with a newfound extra day off work will have more time to shop locally, to help their parents, to be with their kids or enjoy solo time off while the kids are in school, to spend time volunteering, travelling or to simply rest: all of the things we tell people to do to live a better life, but that those people generally need to find time to do within two days, one of those days inevitably being a laundry

It also means one less day of travel to the office for numerous employees in one day, offering environmental benefits of having fewer cars on the road.

A weekly long weekend is a definite benefit the township can offer to prospective employees in a time when employees are hard to find, but at no cost to the township, and with longer

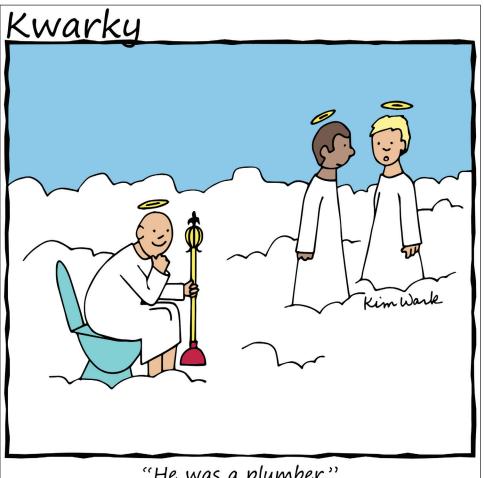
> municipal office hours, it's also a benefit the township can offer to taxpayers.

Elsewhere in Ontario, after a similar eightmonth pilot project, Zorra township, just east of London, has permanently shifted to a compressed work week, noting employees appreciated the much sought after flexibility in their schedules, and quickly

became accustomed to better work-life balance.

There were challenges for the Zorra employees, too: finding childcare for longer work days, having time at home for daily tasks after those work days, having a longer interruption of ongoing projects. The trial in Algonquin Highlands plans to hear feedback from staff and residents before making a permanent shift.

Mayor Carol Moffatt called the move to a compressed work week "bold and progressive," and she's right - Algonquin Highlands does often lead the way in doing things first, or a little differently than things have been done before (See, for example: green burials, a communications co-ordinator position, cultural stewardship, and an all-woman council). They'll now be going first to see if this new way of working, well, works.



"He was a plumber."

Why bears were never domesticated

THE OTHER day after cleaning up after a bear that had knocked over our garbage bin in the early morning hours, I began wondering where we went wrong with bears.

If you think about it, bears would have made an ideal pet in many ways. They are cuddly and cute. They would have provided a sense of security you could never get with a shih tzu. And they would not take any guff from cats.

I get that they are big, aggressive omnivores that could snap your arm off with a good bite, but the same can

be said about some dogs. So why is it we never domesticated bears?

I think the bear itself is partly responsible.

After all, we were able to bring cats and dogs into our caves because they initially reluctantly positioned themselves at a fair distance from our campfires and over time learned to slip in closer for food, until they eventually

realized that we meant them no harm. Then over generations, they were able to slowly form a real bond with us.

Like kids.

Bears were not so meek in their approach, however. A bear would smell what was cooking or catch a whiff of our garbage dumps, or that one guy who never bathed, and then walk right in like they owned the place. There was no testing the waters. It was more like, "Are we going to have trouble here? Because all I want are all the blueberries you just collected."

And not even my wife and kids can get away with that.

Even if we could find an amicable solution, I think as we domesticated dogs, bears had a hard act to follow.

First off, back then poop and scoop was in its infancy – and no one had developed bags big enough for bear poop. And as for the affection part, I think our early ancestors quickly figured out that having a "lap bear" would not be a whole lot of fun. And while dogs cuddle, bears hug. And we all know that this is not exactly pleasant. Also, the thought of a bear scooting across your rug is even harder to take.

Then there is the sporting aspect. Many of our domesticated dogs were bred to hunt -

either to retrieve, flush or chase. I think early on hunters realized that if you sent a bear out to retrieve a duck, you weren't going to get it back – until the poop and scoop part.

As for the flushing and chasing parts, I think bears were just too good at this. Which meant you'd never see that game animal again, unless it was as they were running or flying over the

On the plus side, having a pet that hibernates over the entire winter might not be a bad thing, especially if you could have them do it in the living room and use them as a bean bag chair.

In the end though, I think not domesticating bears was one of the best decisions we ever made. Because, honestly, they also take up a lot of space. And if you think a puppy chewing on a table leg is bad, think of what a polar bear cub could do.

It just wasn't meant to be. And that's fine. Between my dog, our two cats, and a bear, I'd never get to sit on a couch or chair

Or eat blueberries. And that just wouldn't



STEVE GALEA Beyond 35

INOTHERWORDS

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Let's not get too relaxed

THE COVID-19 pandemic is over. That seems to be a consensus in a world that has succumbed to COVID fatigue.

Most people have tossed their masks. Government mandates and restrictions are mostly gone.

But the killer virus is still with us. Two to three thousand Canadians are catching it every day. Hundreds are ending up in hospital every day and several dozen are dying of it every day. In the U.S., the daily average death rate from the virus is 314.



JIM POLING SR. From Shaman's Rock

It is a virus that keeps bringing us surprises. The latest is research showing how quickly vaccine protection against the virus wanes.

A British study has found that two doses of the highly-rated Pfizer vaccine provide only 34 percent protection after six months. Two doses of Astro-Zeneca provide zero protection after six months.

Another British study found that booster shots start losing their effectiveness after 10 weeks.

So, more people vaccinated and boosted are catching it, although most of those cases are not severe. Many are older people whose immune systems don't respond to vaccines as well as younger people.

"There's still exceptionally high risk among older adults, even those with primary vaccine series," Andrew Stokes, a Boston University assistant professor who studies COVID death age, was quoted as saying recently.

What worries me most about the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is how little we seem to know about it, and the surprises it brings us.

For instance, since the onset of COVID-19 there has been an increase in autoimmune disorders in people and pets. I know of three people who have contracted such disorders, which can range from recurring pneumonia to arthritis, lupus and psoriasis.

Also, I have two granddogs who have developed autoimmune disorders since the pandemic began and have heard of other cases in dogs and cats.

Now there are reports of other viruses acting in odd ways. The medical community has reported surges in common viruses that cause colds and influenza, which are seen usually in the winter months.

Researchers are trying to figure out whether these common viruses are showing up now because of the lessening of masking and social distancing, or whether the powerful coronavirus is causing changes.

This coronavirus has too many variations, too many unanswered questions and too many surprises for us to become too relaxed.

Masking is unquestionably one of the most effective ways of reducing the spread of the virus.

That's not to say that government orders on mask wearing are the way to go. It is impossible for governments to enforce mask wearing for tens of millions of people.

And, government mandates for wearing masks have not proven very effective, as have other political decisions made during the pandemic.

Mask wearing at this point should be an individual decision. I intend to continue to wear mine in higher risk situations such as crowds.

The coronavirus is not going away anytime soon. Even if it does, there are other viruses out there preparing to take its place.

A worrisome one is the H5N1 strain of bird flu, which already has struck 100 species of wild birds. (If you have been wondering why you are seeing fewer birds around your place, the spreading bird flu might be the reason).

The experts say there is little risk that this bird flu will affect humans, however several human cases have been reported. There always is a risk of spillover into human populations as a virus evolves. Virus spillover from animals certainly has occurred many times in the past.

We live in a world of viruses. Shrugging and forgetting just how deadly and devastating they can be is a danger to us all.

For anyone who might have forgotten, here are a few facts to keep in mind: • In the United States, one of the world's most medically advanced societies, coronavirus now is the third leading cause of death.

- COVID-19 has reduced life expectancy in 31 of 37 high-income countries.
- The virus has killed 6.3 million people worldwide.
- Studies show that almost one-half of people who contract COVID-19 and survive suffer health impacts four months or more after the initial diagnosis.



Quoth the ravens

A group of ravens can be called an unkindness, or a conspiracy. This young, noisy group loves hanging out at this woodpile near Hwy 121, eating grubs and sharing gossip. /KAREN LONDON Staff

letters to the editor

Promise of pop-up rambles to come

There's something about an anticipated rail trail ramble with kindred folk and friendly dogs life-affirming, restorative, full of joy – are comments we've heard. Lively conversations with people just met or not seen in a long time meander along as does the trail. Each outing invites the prospect of discoveries of the natural outdoors, and snippets of fascinating local lore.

Organized programs of Countryside Rambles were 'invented' in the UK. Our Rambles were suggested by Beth Madole over a dozen years ago, to illustrate what a treasure we have in our 34 km Haliburton County Rail Trail, the HCRT. Beth has since moved out of the county but her idea lives on.

Friends of the Rail Trail, FoRT for short, the local non-profit devoted to "connecting community and rail trail" just wrapped up a dozen Sunday Rambles on the HCRT and one that ventured south onto the Victoria RT. Two up-

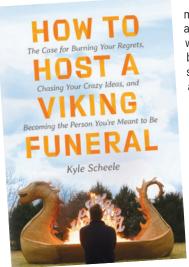
Although the formal program of rail trail outings has concluded, there's promise of "pop-up" rambles to some of the more popular sites in Minden Hills over the coming months.

Trestles bridges, wetlands, rock cuts, and all kinds of waterways - beaver ponds, rivers, rapids and waterfalls - seemed to attract the most interest. They can be discovered by chance, but sometimes it's nice to have a guided tour.

To learn about future opportunities: find and follow the public Facebook page of Friends of the Rail Trail Haliburton. While there, you can scroll back through past Ramble postings. Or to be added to the email circulation list, contact FoRT Chair Pamela Marsales at 705 457-4767, or pamela.marsales@gmail.com.

> Pamela Marsales Chair, Friends of the Rail Trail (FoRT)

HCPL's Non-fic Pick - June



Kyle Scheele wanted to do something unusual to mark his 30th birthday. Instead of a party, he held a funeral to memorialize the decade of his life that was ending. Building a 16-foot Viking ship out of cardboard, he invited friends to help him set it on fire - a symbolic farewell to his 20s and all the grief, regret, and mistakes that accompanied them.

When his Viking funeral went viral, it encouraged others to let go of past hurts as well. Moved by the response he received, Kyle planned a second funeral, and asked people to share the things they carried - the bad choices, disappointments, heartaches, and negative thinking that they wanted laid to rest. He received more than 20,000 responses from around the world - stories both heartbreaking and hilarious, painful and inspiring.

How to Host a Viking Funeral is the story of letting go. It's about renewal; where regret becomes a blank space - an opportunity for a fresh start..

Veteran MPP Scott expected to provide leadership at Queen's Park

by STEPHEN PETRICK
Special to the Times

The work of Ontario's Legislative Assembly is still on pause, after being dissolved in May for the spring provincial election, but Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock's Member of Provincial Parliament was called to Queen's Park recently to perform a special duty.

Laurie Scott was asked to offer insights at an orientation session for a group of newlyelected MPPs, representing all major parties. She spent Wednesday, June 15 participating in the sessions where new MPPs were given advice on how to set up constituency offices, manage staff and handle the responsibility of representing a region.

"It was fun," said Scott. "They were all very appreciative."

Scott is a suitable choice to give guidance to newcomers, because few are as experienced in provincial politics as the Kinmount native. Scott, a Progressive Conservative, was elected to a sixth term as MPP for the vast rural riding on June 2. By earning 25,594 votes, her total eclipsed all of her six other competitors combined. She'll now continue in a role she's held since 2011 and be a veteran that Doug Ford can lean on as he begins a second term as premier.

In an interview to discuss plans for the new term, Scott acknowledged that, as an experienced MPP, she'll need to provide leadership. The orientation, she said, was a nice non-partisan event to participate in, as it allowed new members of the Queen's Park family to get to know one another on a personal level.

When it comes to the more partisan work, Scott has a role to play, too. She said, within



Conservative Party of Ontario member **Laurie Scott** answers questions after learning she was re-elected on Thursday, June 2 at the Pie Eyed Monk in Lindsay. Scott was re-elected with 52.75 per cent of the votes cast in the Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock riding where 102,111 voters were registered. /DARREN LUM Staff

Progressive

the Conservative caucus, MPPs are "buddied up" so newer MPPs can work and learn from more experienced ones. Eventually, Ford will need to choose new cabinet ministers and Scott is no stranger to working in those roles.

Last term, she served as Minister of Labour and then, after a shuffle, took on the role of Minister of Infrastructure. She said she'd be happy to take on whatever role is chosen for her this time around.

Whatever happens, though, she suspects she'll spend much of the new term working on hot-button issues, such as the drive to improve health care services, lowering the cost of living in general and improving access to high-speed internet in rural areas.

Scott has devoted much of her time in recent years to addressing gaps in internet service, given that high-speed internet is widely believed to be a key to improving rural economies

Scott said the Eastern Ontario Regional Network, a group working to improve access to high-speed Internet, recently awarded a contract to Rogers to add infrastructure that will close some gaps, but some work remains. She plans to continue working with mayors and other community leaders to see how the province, municipalities, the federal government and network providers can work together to close out the last remaining gaps.

"In my riding, there's some improvement, but there's at least 20,000 people who will not have high-speed, or not adequate internet, or none at all. Some of those gaps are being built out, but the plan is to (have high speed internet) for everyone."

The good news for Scott and her colleagues is that, with a PC majority government in place, any motion that the party wants to pass will.

Scott believes Ontarians were comfortable with handing Ford a resounding majority government because he listened to Ontarians' concerns and has a get-it-done attitude that ensures bureaucracy won't spoil a good idea.

As an example, she said that when she was Minister of Labour, she went to Ford to address concerns over a law that prevented professional firefighters, who worked for municipalities outside of their own homes, from volunteering in their home communities. "He listened and said, 'that's not right. You have my permission to do what you need to do to fix this."

That attitude, she said, is leading to the PCs passing budgets with big investments in health care and infrastructure, with little opposition.

On health care, specifically, the PCs plan to add 30,000 new long-term care beds in the province by 2028. Only 611 new beds were added to the provincial system between 2011 and 2018, the PCs say.

"We've been through two tough years in the pandemic," she said. "We've made some great announcements in the riding. (It's about) continuing to work with our health care providers to advance their needs."

When not working at Queen's Park, Scott will continue to get out and about in the riding as much as possible. She's conscious of the fact that Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock residents have shown incredible trust in her; so she tries to show her appreciation back and ensure that trust remains.

"I try to be in my community as much as I can be," she said. "I like being with people at their events and community celebrations. I genuinely do care about my community and I try my best to help -- I think people see that."

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Emmerson Lumber:

Providing us with priority pricing and sending us lumber for our training.

Home Hardware:

Providing us perfect training materials.

Frost Centre:

Allowed us any materials we needed or felt would be useful for training.



Canada Day in the Highlands

by VIVIAN COLLINGS Times Staff

Canada Day celebration laughter, music, and fireworks will be heard far and wide across the county on July 1.

With festivities taking place all over the county in Minden, West Guilford, and various locations in Highlands East, residents and visitors will have a myriad of celebration choices to pick from.

The Township of Minden Hills is hosting Canada Day Fun beginning at 8 a.m. with the Kid's Fishing Derby on Water Street featuring prizes from various sponsors. Water Street will also be filled with interactive sports stations, Wild Ontario: Birds of Prey shows, and fireworks at dusk at the Minden fairgrounds. Canada Day also marks the start of Music Fridays at the Fairgrounds, with Gord Kidd taking the stage at 7 p.m.

SUP Yoga is also taking place on July 1 at 1932 Horseshoe Lake Road in Minden. To register, visit www.wolfflowsup.com/schedule or email wolfflowsup@gmail.com.

A fireworks display will take place at the West Guilford Recreation Centre at 9:30 p.m. In Cardiff, Royal Canadian Legion Branch

566 will host a breakfast at the Cardiff Community Centre at 2747 Monck Road from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The breakfast is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

The Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost Museum at 2314 Loop Road will raise the Canadian flag at 11:30 a.m. followed by live entertainment, sandwiches, and cake.

The Kidd Schoolhouse Museum in Highland Grove will feature children's crafts, local entertainment, and a barbecue meal from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Bring your own lawn chair to Tory Hill Park at the intersection of Highway 118 and County Road 503 for some live music and stories of Tory Hill's history beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Gooderham will have a full evening of celebration from 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Robert McCausland Community Centre at 1043 Community Centre Road. Children's activities, cake, barbecue, face painting, a clown, and an Irondale display will be part of the event. The Fire Department will host a Jaws of Life demonstration at 5 p.m. followed by live entertainment by the Highlands Trio at 7 p.m. The night will conclude with a fireworks display at 10 p.m.

David Poirier has volunteered to manage the Haliburton **Highlands Outdoor** Association's fish hatchery. Poirier takes over for Randy Charter, who managed the hatchery operations for the last seven years. /Photo submitted



HHOA welcomes new fish hatchery manager

The Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association is pleased to announce that David Poirier has volunteered to manage the association's fish hatchery. Poirier takes over for Randy Charter, who managed the hatchery operations for the last seven years.

"I've been vacationing in the Haliburton area for 30 years and I've always admired the HHOA's work," said Poirier. "I'm thrilled to continue Randy's outstanding work and look forward to helping the HHOA enhance its efforts to improve Haliburton area fisheries."

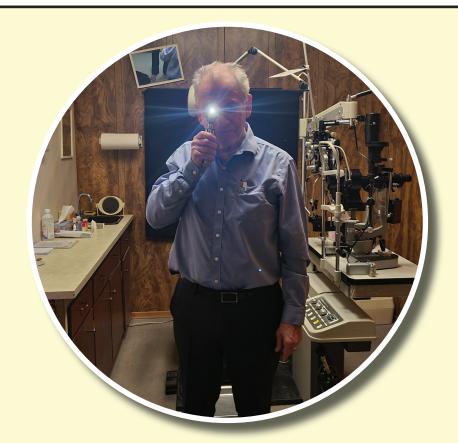
David recently retired from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, where he spent 32 years as a scientist in aquatic toxicology. While there he ran a fish culture laboratory that reared 25,000 rainbow trout every year. David has a bachelor of science in marine biology, specializing in fish culturing, and a masters in science in Environmental Biology from the University of Guelph.

"David brings an extremely high level of expertise to the hatchery, said Dan Smith, HHOA President. "We are very excited to have David with us as we explore new ways to improve and expand our operations."

David and his wife Linda recently purchased a property near Salerno Lake where they are building their retirement home. The couple have three boys ranging in age from 23 to 31. Look for David paddling local lakes in his "goldenrod"-coloured Scott canoe pursuing his favourite hobby: fishing, of course!

Since 1998, the HHOA has raised and stocked over 800,000 fish in local lakes. You can join HHOA at HHOA.on.ca. And remember to play the HHOA 50/50 monthly raffle at bigcatch5050.ca. Fifty percent of all monthly proceeds go to one lucky winner. The other fifty percent supports the fish hatchery.

- Submitted by the Haliburton Highlands Outdoor Association



As of July 1, 2022 DR. BENOIT is retiring and has **SOLD** his practice to **HALIBURTON VISION CARE CENTRE.** Please contact BRETT AND LAUREN WILSON who have all of Dr. Benoit's records and will be contacting you for future appointments to be rebooked at their clinic. You can reorder glasses and contact lenses from them.

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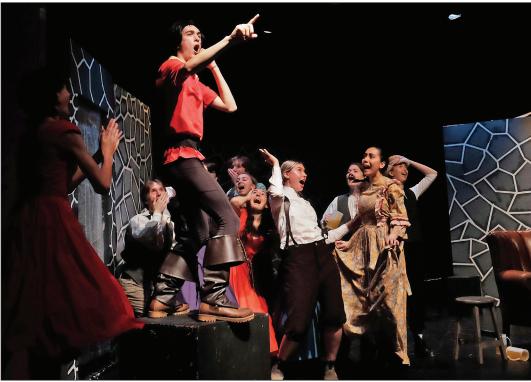
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Tale as old as time

Darian Willis, as Gaston, standing, impresses patrons of a bar played by Annie Merrifield, Ella Stamp, Zieta Suranyi, Ciera Wilson and Sophie Longo during the staging of the musical, Beauty and the Beast at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Tuesday, June 14 in Haliburton. The performance included four dates from June 13 to 16 all at 7 p.m. /DARREN LUM Staff



Belle (Maurice's daughter) share a scene



Senior drama class's Quinten Little, as Drama class's Ella Malott-Carl, the Maurice, from left, and Grace Hudson, as enchantress, refuses the pleading of the prince, as played by Jordan Kovaks.



performs during the staging of the musical, Beauty and the Beast.



Crystal Petry, a member of the HHSS senior drama class, performs as Cogsworth in last week's production.

Halls Island welcomes artists for fourth year

Nine artists - musicians, writers, mixed media artists will be welcomed to an off-grid island on Koshlong Lake this summer as the Halls Island Artist Residency opens for a fourth full year of residencies.

The island will be alive with creativity and energy as the artists, selected through an application process ending in February, are hosted over eight residency sessions. Artists will come from as far away as Texas and P.E.I., and from as close as Haliburton Village.

One of the selected artists is local fabric artist Jane Selbie. "I am looking forward to the opportunity, within such beauty and tranquility, to feel renewal and to focus on my illustrated manual project," said Selbie. "An island offers 360 degrees of vistas and being there will open my mind to new perspectives to enrich my art."

Ruth Walker, co-chair of Halls Island Artist Residency said, "We are excited to once more welcome a diverse and intriguing group of artists to our residency. A number of artists will be offering free workshops or presentations throughout the summer. We invite the community to check out the dates and times posted on our website."

Halls Island Artist Residency received a grant from TD Bank's Ready Challenge Fund this past year. Thanks to this grant, the attending artists will each receive an honorarium to offset their expenses.

Halls Island is privately owned by a family whose generosity is providing the residency, accommodations and island access for the chosen artists. HIAR is a member of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, a not-for-profit organization that encourages, develops and supports several community groups in the Highlands.

Applications for the 2023 residency sessions will open in the fall of 2022.

-Staff

Nine artists - musicians, writers, mixed media artists - coming from as far away as Texas and P.E.I. and from as close as Haliburton Village will be welcomed to an off-grid island on Koshlong Lake this summer as the Halls Island Artist Residency opens for a fourth full year of residencies./Photo submitted



Installation artist John Notten returns with Unpacking the Weekend

by JERELYN CRADEN

Special to the Times

A few years back, 2017, marked Canadian installation artist John Notten's first exhibition at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, "The Tent Project." Now, he's back with his muchanticipated, "Unpacking the Weekend," show of 20 installations, a provocative look at a ritual that Canadians hold dear - cottaging in God's country.

'Unpacking the Weekend represents my artistic practice and thought over the past two-and-a-half to three years," Notten said. "So, in that way, it makes it kind of a COVID project."

Opening on Tuesday, June 28 with an opening reception on Saturday, July 9, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Notten – a modern-day philosopher through his art – will share insights into his creative process, challenges, and activism at 3 p.m.

"Some people have lots of money to donate to certain causes," Notten said, "others can write about them. What can I do? I can make art."

A Toronto resident, Notten heads up north often.

"Unpacking the Weekend is about balancing those things in our lives that we feel warm, cosy, fuzzy, nostalgic about, almost in an idealistic/romantic way, like a canoe or a Muskoka chair," Notten said, "with a realization that some of these objects actually have a complicated history that is sometimes quite painful."

"The canoe, a great gift given to the Europeans by Indigenous people," Notten said, "was turned into an object of resource extraction. So, when I get in my canoe, I have to balance tipping, but I also have to balance the idea that I love this craft, it reminds me of my childhood and trips that I have gone on, but I'm also aware that we can historically connect this object that I love with a long and painful history of resource extraction that started right in the very beginning."

Laurie Carmount, former AJG curator and a huge fan and supporter of Notten and his work, loved Unpacking the Weekend and contracted the 20-piece exhibition over a year ago.

"In the very first piece that you're going to see in the show," Notten said, "is a dock on a peaceful lake. But then, there's something going on under the water. So, the dock triggers some memories that are warm and beautiful, but below the surface is a different world that may suggest that the impact of our presence on the landscape is not insignificant.'

Notten was born shortly before installation art was born in the '70s. "I studied fine art at York University when installation art was a pretty big deal. Everyone was making installation art in the '80s and I continued in the '90s and the thousands and never stopped.



Unpacking the Weekend by John Notten will open on June 28 at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery with an opening reception on Saturday, July 9, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. /Photo submitted

Uncannyda by John Notten, part of the Unpacking the Weekend show runs until August 24. /Photo submitted

I want to fully engage the viewer in an experience that doesn't just involve standing in front of something and looking at it and thinking about it intellectually, but rather to allow them to walk around it, through it, inside it, stand on it, ride it. I've made things that move and the viewer sits in it. Allowing for a full experience. That's why I love installation art so much."

Once Discovered, Never Forgotten is a piece made entirely of marshmallows -Notten's comment on the Orillia monument to Champlain. "For me, to take something like a monument that is made out of the most permanent materials you can find, namely granite and bronze, and then choosing a material that is completely the opposite – marshmallows, which are exceedingly sweet, very white, and very temporary gives the monument a story. The monument has been taken down around the country along with Sir John A. MacDonald and the Egerton Ryerson statue. Statues that pay homage to colonial power that are being challenged.'

Recalling viewers' reactions, Notten said: "At first, people don't realize what it's made of. They're contemplating this image of Champlain and then you see this big smile come across their face as

they realize what it's made of. They start to ask why did he remake this Orillia monument to Champlain out of marshmallows? What could that possibly be about? I don't think there's one answer. When it showed in Toronto, people loved the piece and it started a lot of discussion."

Notten's family plays a key role in his life. "My wife, Luana, is an incredible supporter and inspiration for my art," he said. "She has wonderful ideas and offers great critiques. She has a very keen eye and a very blunt way of saying, that's working or that's not working. And, she's always right."

"I have a piece at Nathan Phillips Square in City Hall right now called Over Floe which is about the environment and rising sea levels. Floating icebergs on one side of the water and on the other are houses, a bank, a school, a factory and a truck half submerged that look like they're floating away.

Last summer Notten's icebergs floated in Lake Ontario at Ontario Place and were anchored with very long steel cables that went down to the lake floor with big concrete blocks.

"Engineering is a big part of my work,

which I love," Notten said, adding that he works alone. "Even very large sculptures like the ones at Nathan Phillips Square. Each of those icebergs is the size of a car. I made them all myself.'

Notten's first show at the AJG was about tents, "but also about tents in terms of homelessness, desperation, and fleeing countries like Ukraine and having to live in a tent, when I get to live in a tent for a camping adventure," he said. "Some people have to live in tents out of necessity.'

"For opening night, I invited all of my friends to bring their tents and they allowed us to build a little tent city out back and we slept overnight and had a campfire for celebrating the opening and the artist talk at the

Notten takes great care designing installations that are recyclable, usable, "and won't go to the landfill."

Unpacking the Weekend runs until August

See more of Notten's art on Instagram at @johnnotten and at his website at johnnot-





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A 'dream' come true for Minden teen

Times Staff

Tathan McCutcheon's biggest dream was to build a basketball court, and it was made possible this spring with a little help from his

The Sunshine Foundation of Canada recently granted Tathan a "dream" in the winter of 2022

The Sunshine Foundation outlined their mission on their website as, "A charity that changes the lives of kids living with severe physical disabilities for the opportunity to lead a brighter, more hopeful future."

Tathan is diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome, a genetic disorder that causes developmental disability. After lots of brainstorming, he decided on a basketball court so that all of his friends, the people he loves most, could enjoy his Dream along with him.

"In order for the Dream to be granted, we needed a contractor to be the liaison to run the show. I reached out to Graham Borgdorff, owner of Above Board Carpentry, and I knew he was super busy with his business and likely wouldn't have time to take this on, but he said 'yes' immediately," said Tathan's mom, Bethan McCutcheon.

"We really enjoyed the work that the McCutcheons asked us to do," said Borgdorff. "We are always honoured to be a part of Tathan's projects because he expresses such thankfulness and is always excited to see us."

Bethan said that the rest of the team at Above Board Carpentry, Sarah Josephs-Langmann, Isaac Graham, Aaron Alfano, and Liam Stringer, were also exceptionally helpful and wonderful.

"When they were there for 10 days working on the basketball court, they were so excited



Tathan McCutcheon was granted a "dream" from the Sunshine Foundation of Canada this past winter. With some help from local businesses, he was able to make his dream for a basketball court to share with his friends come true. /Photos submitted by Bethan McCutcheon

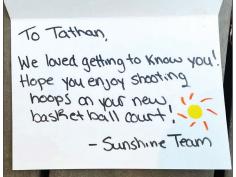
to be there. They were super engaging and their energy was infectious," she said.

The Sunshine Foundation gives a specific budget for each project, so the project must be completed within the allotted funds. To begin the project, Borgdorff and the team needed the land to be cleared, gravel to be put down and flattened and landscaped, so they would need heavy machinery to do so.

"Tathan knows lots of people with mighty machines around here, so I knew I would be



Tathan McCutcheon was granted a "dream" from the Sunshine Foundation of Canada this past winter. With some help from local businesses. he was able to make his dream for a basketball court to share with his friends come true.



able to reach out to someone," said Bethan. "The very first person I reached out to was Mike Fisher from Mike Fisher Trucking Company, and he immediately said, 'Yes, and just so you know, we will be doing this free of charge because we don't want any money taken away from the budget,' which was so wonderful."

Bethan said that the most incredible part about watching the building process was seeing everyone come together as a team to make Tathan's "Dream" come true.

The McCutcheon family would also like to thank Fowlers Quarry in Haliburton, who donated two loads of stone to the project, Steve Davidson for laying the concrete, and JAC Kernohan Construction for a discounted price on the concrete.

A grand reveal party was held at Tathan's basketball court on Saturday, June 18 at 73 Spring Valley Road in Minden where close to 40 people attended, including Spider-Man.

"Tathan was thrilled to be with his friends and had lots of fun on the basketball court. All Tathan ever wants is to be with his friends," Bethan said. "As a mom, I was so excited to watch this awesome opportunity for him to share his Dream with the community and his friends come to life. It's so easy to see darkness in the world, but then I see all of this love and support being poured into this project for my son, and it brings so much light.'

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Haliburton Highlands welcomes athletes to **Sports Hall of Fame**

Members and family of members of the 1970-1971 Haliburton Junior D Huskies came for the induction ceremony held on Saturday, June 18 at the A.J. LaRue Arena. The team won the OHA Championship. /Submitted by Tim Tofflemire (Tofflemire Photography)



A university heptathlete and high school sports standout Anna Tomlinson received a hug at the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony. /DARREN LUM Staff

Builder Linda Brandon, founder of the Haliburton **County Red** Wolves, was presented her award by Peter Forgrave when she was inducted into the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame at the ceremony held in Haliburton last weekend. /Submitted by **Tim Tofflemire** (Tofflemire Photography)

Among the best curlers from this area, Jake Walker was inducted in the Haliburton **Highlands Sports** Hall of Fame at the induction ceremony. / Submitted by **Tim Tofflemire** (Tofflemire Photography)



The last surviving player of the 1956 - 1957 Minden Monarchs Bob Beeney, from left, welcomed the honour of being inducted into the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame from Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin at the induction ceremony. /Submitted by Tim Tofflemire (Tofflemire Photography)



FRIDAYS at the **FAIRGROUNDS 2022**

Friday Evenings at the Fairgrounds carries on the tradition of Music by the Gull ~ at Bobcaygeon Rd + Fleming Rd * Ample Parking * Bring a lawn chair * All Welcome!

Live Music Schedule

7:00 to 8:30 pm:

July 01 • Gord Kidd & Friends > country

July 08 • Country Hot Flashes > country

July 15 • North of Seven > original folk, rock, alternative

July 22 • Gary and the Rough Ideas > rock and all that

July 29 • priMates > rock, pop, funk, blues









Sponsors: Highlands Wind Symphony, The Times, Minden Lions Club, Rotary Club of Minden

IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills proposes to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land more particularly described

> 1. File No. PLSRA2017053: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front 1721 Davis Lake Road located within Lot 9, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

2. File No. PLSRA2020044: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1871 Kashagawigamog Lake Road located Lot 25, Concession 3, Geographic Township of Minden

3. File No. PLSRA2021010: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Mountain Lake, lying in front of 1039 Inukshuk Trail located within Lot 10, Concession 8, Geographic Township of Minden

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Building and Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned at their earliest convenience. If deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons) Township Planning Consultant 705-742-2297x278 adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Sudoku brought to you by

LISA MERCER **BROKER**

lisa@lisamercer.ca cell: 705.457.0364

Don't keep me a secret.

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8

3

3

8

5

9



6

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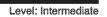




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Fun By The **Numbers**

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!



Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4

6

8

5

Answers on page 14



Most tests passed, intermediate and senior:

From left, Jayde Rowden, Nicole Lee, Coach Jane Symons, Ali Mantle, Annika Gervais and Emily Vanderstarre. Missing from photo: Emily Fitzell /Photos by Jenny Smith

An evening to celebrate skate

An end-of-year skating banquet held June 15 brought the Minden Skating Club together in celebration and appreciation of efforts over the past year.

Pre-Elite of the Year: Georgia Neilson Intermediate of the Year: Evelyn Vanderstarre

Senior of the Year: Emily Fitzell

Canskater of the Year: Maddie Delahunt Morrow Most Improved Intermediate: Sarah Teljeur

Most Improved Senior: Nicole Lee

Most Improved Canskater: Rylie Miscio and Maddie Delahunt Morrow

Most Dedicated Skater: Star skater - Kinsley Murdoch, Senior skater - Hannah

Determination: Ruthie Parker, Alexis Feero PA of the Year: Nicole Lee, and Ali Mantle

Most Tests Passed, Intermediate and Senior: Annika Gervais,

Evelyn Vanderstarre, Nicole Lee, Jayde Rowden, Emily Fitzell, Ali Mantle

Peer Support: Ruthie Parker

Carnival Spirit: Rylie Miscio, Keetyn Mills, Tess Husband

Spirit Intermediate: Olivia Fitzell, Annika Gervais

Spirit Senior: Ali Mantle

Canskate Spirit: Caleb McElwain and Brynnley Hughes



Spirit squad: From left, Annika Gervais, Coach Jane Symons, Ali Mantle and Olivia Fitzell. Olivia and Annika received a Spirit Intermediate award, while Ali received a Spirit Senior award.



Carnival spirit: Keetyn Mills, Coach Jane Symons and Tess Husband. Keetyn and Tess received carnival spirit awards. Missing from photo: Rylie Miscio.

Co-ed soccer kicks-off in Haliburton County

by GRACE OBORNE

Special to the Times

For Chris Carere, the game of soccer is about fun and inclusivity.

Two years ago, Carere was a member of the Haliburton Soccer Club. However, due to peak COVID-19 times, it became increasingly difficult to continue playing.

Since then, indoor recreational programs have made a comeback, leaving individuals wanting more outdoor activity.

"Minden ran an indoor recreational program this spring, starting at the end of May and ending last night, at the new arena. I'm not sure exactly the numbers, but maybe about 20 people signed up, which made me think that we had enough people there to say, 'Okay, we have a good go to do the outdoor programs again," Carere said.

Dysart runs a kid's program for ages 13 and under and a woman's league, Haliburton Grassroots Athletics, has formed. This leaves men, teenagers, and young adults feeling

'Kathy Judson came and wanted to start soccer up again, which was a great idea. Fortunately, but unfortunately, she is only doing a women's league. This means that there are a lot of guys who have played for years, who are still really

Carere received a permit from Trillium Lakelands District School Board to start a 13 or older co-ed soccer program that will take place at Archie Stouffer Elementary School starting Wednesday, June 22, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. The cost will be \$50 per person.

"I wanted to do ages 13 and over so that any kids who want to play but are too old to play in the kid's league, can play, as long as they're physically able to compete with adults,'

"We can take any kids able to compete, because certainly, it's a fun thing. We'll divide it up so that it's even."

There isn't another option for co-ed soccer in the county, making this program new and exciting for the community.

At Archie Stouffer, the fields are smaller, therefore the games will be small-sided.

"At Archie Stouffer, we can use the small fields and play small-sided soccer. That would be five versus five, or six versus six. On 11 versus 11 fields, there are people who get left out from the ball because it just never gets over to them, meaning they don't get a lot of play" Carere said.

'Playing on smaller fields, I find the adults and the kids are more involved. This means everybody gets a lot of touches on the ball."

Carere hopes to run multiple games at once given the op-

portunity to have access to smaller fields.

"Hopefully, we'll be able to run two games if we have too many for one field. We can just run two side by sides. That way, we can just keep everybody involved in playing the games or have substitutions if needed," she said.

The program will be a team effort in terms of coaching and refereeing. Officiating will be based on an honour system among players.

The end date is undetermined but is likely to end in September. Carere hopes to run the program until they no longer can play.

"I will go until we can no longer play. Probably to the middle of September or late September. There are also talks about possibly running the program indoors starting in September, but I won't have all the details or a confirmation for another week or two," Carere said.

Having an all-ages, co-ed soccer program in the community is important to Carere.

"The fact that it's co-ed and all ages, is important. I have always played co-ed since I moved up here. I quite enjoy it and I find that the group, especially this one that's been playing in Minden since May, is very inclusive. I wanted to do that again for the community as well."

For more information, reach out to Carere at c.carere@bell.



SUDOKU SOLUTION

3	8	7	2	4	6	1	5	9
1	2	6	5	9	3	4	7	8
5	4	9	8	1	7	2	3	6
4	1	5	6	2	8	3	9	7
7	9	8	1	3	5	6	2	4
6	3	2	9	7	4	8	1	5
8	5	1	3	6	9	7	4	2
9	7	3	4	8	2	5	6	1
2	6	4	7	5	1	9	8	3

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS

Minden Fairgrounds
Friday, July 1st

Refreshments from the Agricultural Society Food Truck will be available, followed by Fireworks at dusk. Music from 7-dusk featuring Gord Kidd & Friends, followed by fireworks.

GORD



We wish to thank the Lion's Club and the Rotary Clubs of Minden for their support of Local music.



Gord and Kathryn would like to take this opportunity to thank Haliburton County for 30 years supporting our Practice. At this show we would like to introduce Mark and Cathy Houselander as the new owners of Minden/ Haliburton Hearing Service. Kathryn and I will be working with Mark and Cathy over the next few years as part of the Hometown Hearing family. This event is sponsored by the Houselanders.

Saturday July 2, Join Gord Kidd & Friends at the Dominion Hotel 7p.m. to 10p.m.

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4	1	5	6	2	8	3	9	7
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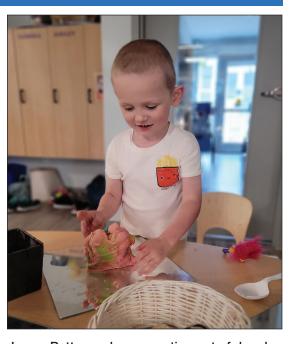
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GENERATIONS









James Pettes makes a creation out of dough.

Loose parts mean unlimited play potential

We've been reflecting recently on the environments and invitations that we offer to the children in our care. The materials and toys that we offer to children set the foundation for the type of play that children engage in. Simply put, depending on what we give the children changes how they play. One of our favourite types of materials that we love to offer to children at Compass ELC are loose parts.

While the term loose parts may be unfamiliar to many, I can guarantee that almost every parent has at some point experienced their child playing with loose parts. Basically loose parts are open-ended materials that have no specific set of directions, they can be; moved, combined, redesigned, transformed, lined up, taken apart, and put back together in multiple ways. Offering loose parts in children's play create an environment where children's play is only as limited as their imagination.

One of the joys of loose parts is that they often can be repurposed or natural materials, you don't have to go out and buy new toys for your children, which helps both the pocketbook and the environment. You can use; clean empty containers from applesauce or yogurt, pinecones, newspapers, flowers, stones, sticks, cardboard boxes, string. Every object has unlimited play potential when you give children free reign to dream and create.

If you're curious about loose parts and wondering where to start with your children, I'd encourage you to create an experience together, where you also get to play and enjoy alongside your children. Two of my favourite children's books, that showcase the wonder of loose parts, are "This Is NOT a Box" and "Not a Stick" both by Antoinette Portis. I highly recommend checking your local library for copies of these books, reading them together with your child, and then finding adventure within your own house with the loose parts you didn't even know you had.

> Submitted by Lindsay Jowett OCT Admin Lead CELC Minden



Children of all ages, abilities, and skill levels and genders can use loose parts successfully. Because there is no right or wrong way to use them, all children can achieve competence, build on existing strengths, and feel successful and independent.

> - FROM THE BOOK LOOSE PARTS, BY LISA **DALY AND MIRIAM BELOGLOVSKY**







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AROUND THE COUNTY TOWN



Puppets, parachute and play

The Haliburton and District Lions (inaugural) Classic fundraiser for the library held June 4 raised \$2,500 for children's programming equipment for the Haliburton County Public Library. "We'll be purchasing a portable puppet stage, puppets, a parachute, for storytime play, as well as ribbons and other handheld items to make storytime even more fun," said Chris Stephenson, HCPL CEO, seen here at a cheque presentation on June 13. /Photo submitted by HCPL



Sharing is caring

Wendy Wilkins of Haliburton won the June 14 draw of the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association monthly 50/50 fundraiser. The total pot for the month was \$2,160. Ms. Wilkins won 50 per cent or \$1,080, and then she generously donated half back to the HHOA. "What a pleasant surprise it was when Wendy offered to donate half of her winnings to the HHOA, said Dan Smith, HHOA President. "It was unexpected and very appreciated. The hatchery can use all the funding help it can get." A new monthly draw started on June 15. Go to bigcatch5050.ca to buy your tickets. /Photo submitted by HHOA



Banks over barks

Gunner, a 12-week-old border collie labradoodle, visited Torri Richards and her colleagues at CIBC in Minden on a lunch break last Friday. /SUE TIFFIN



Lily leads

Chief Warrant Officer Lily Austin received the Commanding Officers Award for Leadership at the 1129 Army Cadets ceremony held June 14. /Photo submitted by Amanda Austin

> To see your loved ones on this page, send photos to sue@haliburtonpress.com

Ukrainian Refugee Fundraiser

Rotary Park Haliburton

Sunday, July 3rd 1-4 pm

Please come and enjoy three hours of music with

Gord Kidd and Friends

presented by the Baha'i Community of Haliburton County Donations will be collected by our local Lions Club and added to the Lion's International funds, which have already donated 3 million dollars to Ukrainian Refugees.

Let us show our support for those so devastated by war. All proceeds in this event go to the cause.



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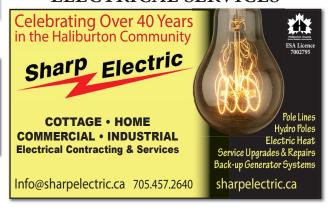
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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Reporting to the President and CEO, the Executive Assistant (EA) is responsible for providing all phases of administrative support and secretarial services for the President and CEO and Board of Directors, in a timely, accurate and professional manner, and to relieve the President and CEO of various administrative details. The EA relieves the President & CEO of various administrative details by managing administrative operations with respect to planning, scheduling (Outlook Calendar), documentation, inquiries, anticipating needs and suggesting appropriate courses of action, with minimal supervision. The EA also supports the President & CEO in managing operational priorities and requirements of the Board of Directors; this includes coordinating meetings, developing agendas, recording minutes, determining and acting on follow-up items for committees, preparing and submitting government reports, coordinating administrative and Board policies, and dealing with legal matters. The EA to President and CEO also provides coverage for the EA of Medical Affairs.

QUALIFICATIONS:

To be successful in this position, the candidate must possess post-secondary education in office administration or business management, or equivalent, and a minimum of three (3) to five (5) years direct experience working in an executive assistant or senior administrative support role, preferably in a health care setting. Experience with project management and planning would be an asset.

This position requires advanced keyboarding skills (minimum 70-80 words per minute), proficiency in Microsoft Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Publisher, and Excel, as well as familiarity with technology related to teleconferencing and videoconferencing, document control systems, online reporting, and scheduling systems. Excellent verbal and written communication skills are essential, and minute-taking skills (using laptop/tablet during meeting) are a critical component of the role along the ability to work in a self-directed fashion. The candidate must be a self-starter, demonstrating self-confidence and initiative in dealing professionally, effectively and courteously with all levels of staff and contacts of the President and CEO, while maintaining diplomacy and confidentiality. This position also requires exceptional organizational skills and ability to manage multiple competing priorities in a fast-paced environment. As well, knowledge of meeting/parliamentary rules and the ability to summarize complex debates would be beneficial.

SUBMIT RESUME TO:

Human Resources Haliburton Highlands Health Services Box 115, Haliburton, ON, K0M 1S0 E-mail: hr@hhhs.ca Fax: 705-457-2398

Haliburton Highlands Health Services thanks all applicants, however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted. If you are contacted by HHHS regarding a job opportunity or testing, please advise if you require accommodation. Information received relating to accommodation needs of applicants will be addressed confidentially.



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Copywriter/Content Marketing Specialist

This creative wordsmith will develop effective copy for B2C marketing campaigns (direct mail, websites, email, social), as well as B2B campaigns (whitepapers, blogs, webinars, etc.). Experience with research, writing, and editing across all marketing channels. Background in journalism, PR, marketing, or related experience required. Send resumé & cover letter to: hhutchison@patientnews.com

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The Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team is seeking two registered nurses, in a 1.0 and 0.5 FTE (full time equivalency) respectively. The registered nurses will be responsible for the delivery of various programs and services including, but not limited to, geriatric support, palliative support, COVID related care and support, chronic disease management, and patient navigation.

Candidates must provide proof of the following:

- Full series of a Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine
- Active/current membership with the RNAO
- Valid Driver's License

Submit a written application and a detailed resume before 5:00 pm on June 30, 2022 to:

Kimberley Robinson Haliburton Highlands Family Health Team 7217 Gelert Road, P.O. Box 870 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 kim.robinson@hhfht.com Fax: 705-457-3955

We thank all who apply, but only those granted an interview will be contacted



The Corporation of the County of Haliburton

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Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than July 4, 2022 at 12:00pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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Youth Wellness Hub Lift Program **Individual Placement and Support Worker** Full time Contract (with potential to be permanent) - 35 hours/week

The Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Worker provides individualized, intensive vocational and educational supports and services to help youth,14-25 with mental health concerns find and maintain meaningful employment / education and training.

Successful completion of a post-secondary diploma or degree in social services, human resources, employment counselling or a related field, is required. Minimum of one year related experience in the mental health and / or employment field is required.

Please visit www.pointintime.ca for more details. Send resume and cover letter by July 4th, 2022 to Mary Sisson, Youth Wellness Hub Manager - marys@pointintime.ca or Point in Time, Centre For Children, Youth and Parents 69 Eastern Ave., Haliburton, ON K0M1S0





Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub CARE COORDINATOR FULL TIME-PERMANENT - 35 hours/week

Under the direction of the Youth Wellness Hub Manager, working within the context of a multidisciplinary team, the Care Coordinator will, in collaboration with youth and their families, assess care needs, determine eligibility for services, and develop individual care and service plans and is passionate about making sure every stone is overturned in order to help youth get the service and supports they require. Membership, in good standing, with the applicable regulatory body: College of Psychotherapists of Ontario, Ontario College of Social Workers or Social Service Workers. 2+ years of recent experience in community health or a related field. Knowledge of the health care delivery system and community resources.

We welcome and strongly encourage employment of persons with lived experiences, economic challenges, from First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples, people of all ages, ancestry, citizenship, ethnic origin, place of origin, faith, creed, disability, family status, marital status, all genders and sexual orientation.

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- Cooking, Serving, Preparing special needs diets
- Dishwashing, washing equipment/pots/utensils and cleaning kitchen and serving areas
- Answering client questions

Qualifications:

- Minimum 16 years of age
- Food Safety Handlers Certification or ability to obtain before start date
- First Aid and CPR C or ability to obtain before start date
- Previous experience working in a food service setting preferred
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Monday, June 29, 1987

Minden Parks plans get little attention

The absolute lack of progress on recommendations from two Minden Township Park Masterplans caused a stir at Thursday's council meeting, as councillors debated the necessity of updating the plan a second time

At the June 11 meeting of Anson, Hindon and Minden council, councillors Verne Graham and Bob Sisson were asked to investigate three proposals from consulting firms to update the plan. They reported back Thursday with some less-than inspiring news about earlier plans.

In the past 15 years, the township has had two elaborate plans completed, said Graham. However, not one recommendation from these plans has been carried out, he said.

'If we do another plan, there should be a guarantee the work will be implemented," he said. "There has to be a committment that the work will be completed." He says he does not understand why nothing was carried out after the first two plans were completed.

While it is necessary to have an official plan completed in order to obtain ministry grants for the work, council is annoyed at the futility of the exercise. Reeve Sinc Nesbitt said, "If we're going to sit on our butts until the grant comes through, we'll be in the same

Nesbitt suggested that council take the \$75,000 it has in reserve for parks work and get started on at least one of the recommendations from the last plan. Councillor Sisson agreed. "Forget the grants, forget the plans and go

However, Graham argued that no work should be carried out unless a new plan has been drafted. Minden's parks are in a "horrible situation" he said. The playground equipment is broken down, there are few park benches and the grass is not well maintained. However, he said everything should be left on hold unless an update of the plan is carried out.

We have the potential for some of the best park land in the county," Graham told council. He said he has no reservations about recommending council accept the lowest tender to update the plan.

"We used one of the other companies in the past and nothing has come out of it," said Graham. Stefan Bolliger Associates came in with the lowest bid for the update at \$5,850. The previous plan was completed by Totten, Sims, Hubicki and Associates, which had the highest tender this time around of \$10,700.

Graham said the recommendations from the last plan would have cost the township more than \$450,000 if the work had been carried out when the plan was completed in 1976. He said there are no guarantees that recommendations from a new plan will be any more feasible but said he has "No intention of letting it sit on a

Council voted to accept the lowest bid for the update with Deputy Reeve Bern Berry going on record as opposing the motion. Half the cost of the update will be covered by a ministry grant.



Grade 12 Valedictorian Heather Stevens gave a touching address to the students during the graduation ceremonies at HHSS Thursday night. For more pictures, see page 7.

Copter crashes near Dorset

A helicopter crash near Dorset Friday evening has injured two members of the Canadian Forces 411 Air Reserve Squadron based in Downsview. One of those injured was the squadron's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Fred McCabe. The other occupant of the craft was not identified at press time.

Captain Don Roy, Information Officer for the Department of National Defense said the helicopter was a Kiowa single engine aircraft. He said the helicopter was used by the Air Reserve for training flights. Although he was uncertain as to what the helicopter was doing in the area, he speculated that the men were on a training exercise when it crashed in a swampy area southwest of

The two passengers in the craft suffered only minor injuries in the forced landing.

An investigation into the cause of the incident is expected to be carried out by the Department of National Defense. It is not known how or when the damaged helicopter will be removed from the bush. A spokesman for the Bracebridge detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police, said the mishap occurred in an area which was



commencement was held at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School on Thursday, June 25. The grade 13 graduating class included Stephanie Bain, Ian Cooper, Jennifer Gentle, Jeffrey Hancock, Michele Harrison, Anthony Hartin, Paul Kuno, Tran LaRue, Michael MacNaull, Christopher Miscio, Shannon Robertson, Eoin Ross, Michael Rutter, Barry Scully, Jamie Stata and Leanne Thomas, some of whom are pictured above.

Contract gives teachers 4.5 per cent hike

The elementary school eachers serving county schools have reached a two year agreement with the Board of Education. The contract was ratified June 23 at the board's regular meeting. It had been mally endorsed previousby both groups of teachers.

The contract calls for a

increase during the first year, with an increase for the second year based on cost of living formula, plus one percent. The contract covers the teachers from September 1987 to August 1989.

According to the chief negotictors for the teachers and the board, the agreement was reached quickly and without any 4.5% across the board animosity between the two

Board negotiator Cheryl Murdoch, trustee for Lutterworth described the negotiating as a "pleasant process". She said that both sides bargained in good faith. Both teacher representatives, Dianne Claus for the elementary teachers and Dave Mowat for the high school instructors, endorsed that

comment. Claus said there was an atmosphere of mutual respect by the teachers and the board in discussions. She said she was pleased with the amiable settlement, noting it would be difficult for the two sides to work together for the benefit of the students if negotiations are difficult or if it had been necessary to strike.

This is the first time in 15 years that the secondary school teachers had a two year contract. In the past, negotiations had covered only a single year. A number of two year contracts had b een negotiated with the elementary teachers in the

This is also the second time since the county-wide board was formed that a

cost of living agreement had been included in the contract.

Murdoch said that the board was willing to accept this formula for the second year of the contract, since the trustees felt it would not be fair to ask the teachers to consider a two year pac without some form of

(more on page 3)



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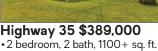




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